

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

Amendments to the Drawings

The two attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 4 respectively. The first sheet, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2. In Figure 2, previously missing reference signs 200 and 207 have been added and the reference signs 232, 233, 234 and 235 have been removed.

The second sheet, which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4. In Figure 4, the reference signs 232, 233, 234 and 235 have been removed.

Two annotated sheets are also added showing the additions and removals noted with respect to Figures 2 and 4 above.

Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (2)

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

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Appl. No.: 10/728,433
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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 05/12/2006 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). All the claims were rejected. By virtue of this amendment, the specification, Figures 2 and 4 and claims 1, 2, and 5 - 14 are sought to be amended. The amendments are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-16 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering and making of record the IDS filed on April 22 2004. The Examiner is also thanked for acknowledging the same in the Outstanding Office Action.

Drawings

In page 2, paragraph number 2, the drawings has been objected to as the drawings do not include the reference signs 200 and 207 mentioned in the description. Figure 2 has been amended to add the noted reference signs. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In pages 2 and 3, paragraph number 3, the drawings has been objected to as Figure 2 includes reference signs 233, 234 and 235 not mentioned in the description. Figures 2 and 4 have been amended to remove the noted reference signs. Reference sign 232 also has been removed from both the figures. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In pages 3 and 4, paragraph number 4, the drawings has been objected to as Figures 2A and 2B mentioned in the specification have not been included as drawings. In response, the specification is sought to be amended to replace the references to Figures 2A and 2B, with a single Figure 2. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In pages 3 and 4, paragraph number 4, the drawings has been objected to as Figure 5 does not illustrate execution interface 590 as stated in the specification. In response, the

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

specification is sought to be amended to replace "execution interface 590" with "client interface 520" consistent with Figure 5. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed examination and the suggestions.

5 **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 6,571,235 B1 issued to Marpe *et al* (hereinafter as "Marpe"). The rejection is rendered moot at least in view of the foregoing amendment as explained below.

For example, amended claim 1 recites:

10 A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
for causing a first client system to enable a user to access a plurality of databases
through a plurality of client systems contained in a manufacturing plant, wherein
each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in only
15 *some of said plurality of databases*, wherein execution of said one or more
sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained in said first client
system causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:
executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a
manufacturing process in said manufacturing plant;
enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;
20 enabling said *user to specify a database of interest* and a search criteria using
said user interface, wherein a *second client* contained in said plurality of client
systems is already *designed to access data in said database of interest*,
sending said search criteria to *said second client*,
receiving a corresponding response; and
25 displaying said corresponding response.
(Currently Amended Independent Claim 1, *Emphasis Added*)

30 Thus an approach according to claim 1 relates to a situation in which each client
system can access only some of the databases. A user specifies a database of interest and a
search criteria. The search criteria is sent to a second client system which is designed to
access the specified database of interest. A response corresponding to the request is then
displayed.

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

Such a feature is useful, for example, in environments in which different databases are implemented by different vendors, and not all client systems may be able to interface with all the databases due to the implementation of different interfaces by different vendors. Accordingly, the approach of claim 1 simplifies the accessibility of the data in different
5 databases by sending requests for data access to a client system which is already designed to access the database of interest.

Marpe does not disclose or reasonably suggest the features noted above, in particular, the feature of sending the search criteria to the second client, designed to already access the database of interest specified by a user.

10 In support of this position, applicants first note that Marpe does not disclose or reasonably suggest databases which are accessible only by some client systems.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants now address the specific points raised in the Outstanding Office Action with respect to previously presented claim 1. The Examiner
15 appeared to rely on below portions of Marpe in rejecting previously presented claim 1:

Another area of functionality allows the user to search for one or more Status Reports in the Workbench database using a specified search criteria. FIG. 10A depicts an embodiment of the present invention which provides a method 1020 for
20 *querying a database which is storing a plurality of items generated by multiple users*. In operation 1022, *users are allowed to create an item with a plurality of fields*. The item is stored in a database in operation 1024. The item should be stored with an identifier corresponding to the user. Upon receipt of a search query in operation 1026, the database is searched in operation 1028 using the search query. (Col 24, lines 38-49 of Marpe, *Emphasis Added*)

25 ...
From this *screen the user can*. 1. Click "Edit search criteria" to return to the main search screen to edit the search criteria. 2. Click "Generate Detail Report" to create a report of all the Status Reports that met the search criteria. (Column 25, lines 41-43 of Marpe, *Emphasis Added*)

30 From the above, it is the Applicants' understanding that one user ("creating user") can create an item ("created item") and other users can search the items from at least the screen noted above.

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

The applicants do not find disclosure or suggestion in Marpe that only some users can create or access items, and that the other users are required to send requests to the creating user to search the created items.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.
5 Claims 2-4 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 1.

Amended Claim 2 is allowable independently as well. In support of the assertion, applicants first note the portions of amended claim 2:

10 The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising:
enabling said user to specify *any desired one of multiple client systems and
an operation associated with data forming said corresponding response*, said
multiple client systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and
executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.
(Amended Claim2, *Emphasis Added*)

15 Thus an approach according to claim 2 enables a user to specify one of multiple (i.e.,
2 or more) client systems and an operation. The operation is specified associated with data
forming the previously received response, and is executed in the specified client system.

20 By providing the ability to use the data in a previously received response and execute
the operation in any of multiple systems, the user interface is simplified when a user wishes
to use the data received from one database to perform the desired operation using another
database as well. Alternatively, the retrieved data can be used to perform another operation
from the same database from which the response was previously received.

Marpe does not disclose or reasonably suggest the features noted above with respect
to currently amended claim 2.

25 Currently amended claim 5 is also allowable over the art of record. In support of the
assertion, applicants first note the text of claim 5 below:

A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
for enabling a new user application to access data in a plurality of databases

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Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

accessible through a plurality of client systems, *wherein each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of databases*, wherein said new user application and said plurality of client systems are related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said computer readable medium comprising:

means for implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface, wherein said first plurality of procedures can be implemented on each of said plurality of client systems, wherein *said first plurality of procedures enable retrieval of desired data from a corresponding database accessible from the corresponding client system*; and

means for access which can be instantiated from *said new user application executing on a first client system which cannot access data in a first database, wherein said first database is accessible through a second client system*, wherein said first client system and said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said means for access enables *a user to specify said first database and a search query*, wherein said first database is contained in said plurality of databases, wherein said means for access *uses said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according to said first interface to retrieve data matching said query*.

(Currently Amended Claim 5, *Emphasis Added*)

Thus an approach according to currently amended claim 5 relates to a situation where each database can be accessed through only some of the client systems. Procedures implemented on each client system enables retrieval of data from databases which can be accessed from the client system. When a new user application executing on a first client system needs to access a data in a first database accessible from a second client system, a user using the new application can specify the first database and a query, and the procedures implemented in the second client system are used to access the data in the first database.

The art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest such a feature at least for some of the reasons noted above with respect to currently amended claim 1. Accordingly claim 5 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claims 6-8 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 5. Independent claims 9 and 13 are allowable for reasons noted above with respect to currently amended independent claims 5 and 1 respectively. Dependent claims 10-12 are allowable as depending from allowable base claim 9, and dependent claims 14-16 are allowable as

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

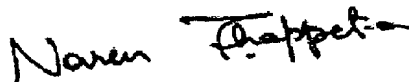
Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

depending from allowable base claim 13.

Conclusion

Accordingly all the objections and rejections of record are believed to be overcome. Continuation of examination is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



/Narendra Reddy Thappeta/

Signature

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